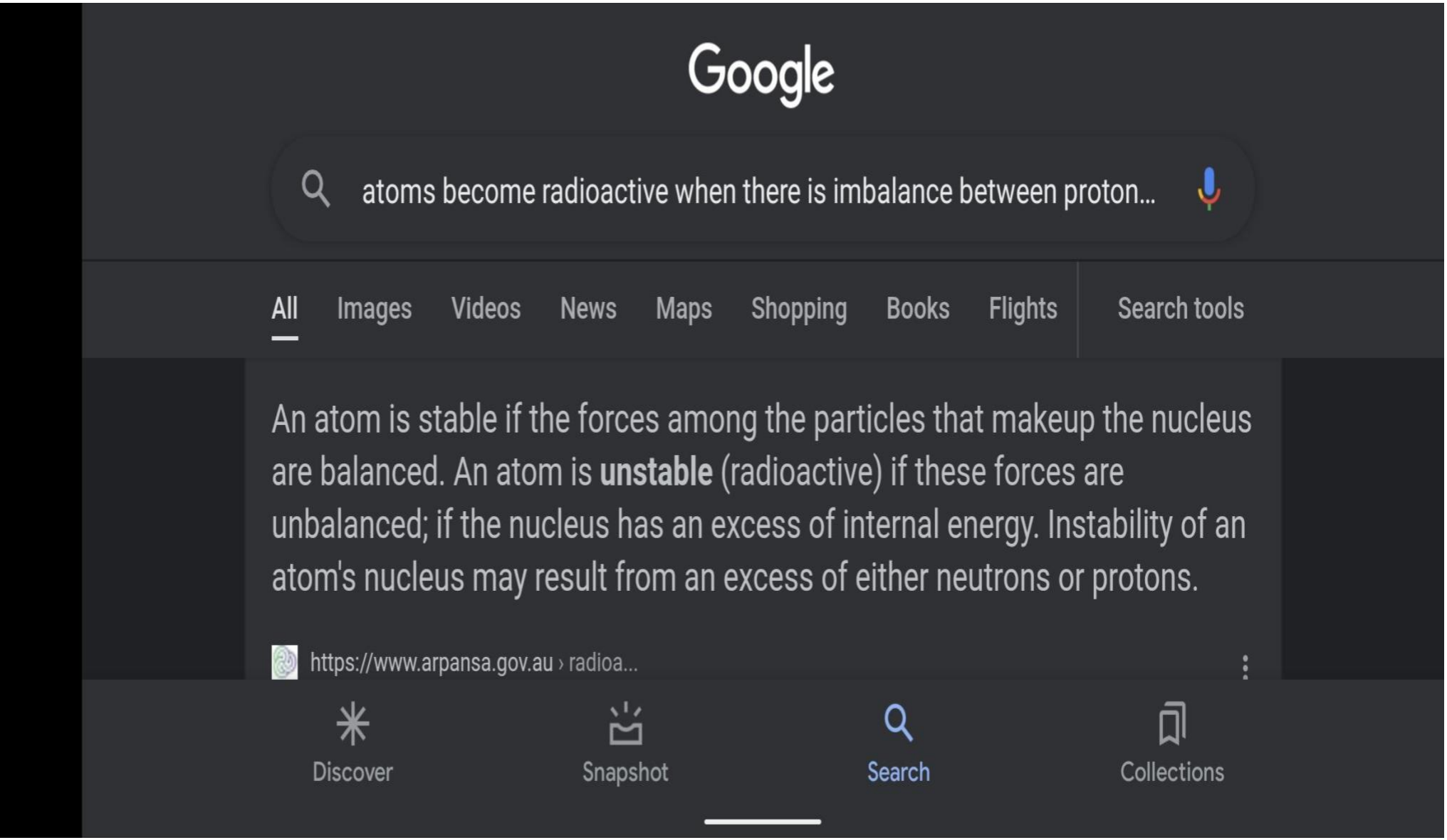
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atoms become radioactive when there is imbalance between proton...
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An atom is stable if the forces among the particles that makeup the nucleus are balanced. An atom is **unstable** (radioactive) if these forces are unbalanced; if the nucleus has an excess of internal energy. Instability of an atom's nucleus may result from an excess of either neutrons or protons.
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